

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 85-93 have been added. Support for claims 85-93 is found at page 9, lines 3-6, and page 10, lines 3-16, of the specification. Claims 1-93 are pending and at issue.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I: Claims 42-45, 61, and 74, drawn to cellulose ethers;

Group II: Claims 1-41 and 75-84, drawn to a method for preparing cellulose ethers; and

Group III: Claims 46-60 and 62-73, drawn to a method for preparing cellulose floc.

Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement and request reconsideration.

A careful search of the prior art relevant to the claims of Group I would develop the prior art relevant to the claims of Groups II and III, since the product recited in the claims of Group I is made by the process recited in the claims of Groups II and III. If the product recited in the claims of Group I are patentable, so are the methods for making it recited in the claims of Group II.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that the Examiner's restriction of the claims is unwarranted and respectfully request that the Restriction be withdrawn and the claims be examined together in this application.

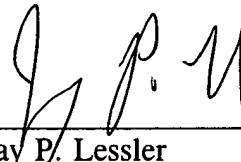
If the Restriction is not withdrawn, applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the claims of Group II upon the allowance of the claims of Group I.

In order to be fully responsive, applicants confirm that they have provisionally elected the claims of Group I, claims 42-45, 61, 74, and 85-93, for further prosecution.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted



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